

21 March 1960

MEMORANDUM FOR: Acting Chief, Development Projects Division

SUBJECT : Activity Program - P2V-7 for [REDACTED]

25X1A

1. I am returning herewith the Activity Program covering the retrofiting of Agency-owned P2V-7 aircraft. I have approved this but with the notation that it is approved only in part. The approval at this time covers all installations except the advanced ELINT equipment.

2. My reason for withholding approval of this part of the program is my desire to assure myself beyond any possibility of doubt that it is prudent to invest an additional [REDACTED] in the installation of such equipment in two additional aircraft. I am aware that many papers have been written on this matter and do not wish to request any studies or new documentation on any scale. I would appreciate, however, if I could have a brief note to indicate whether the plan for advanced ELINT equipment could be reduced in scope either (a) by omitting one or more items from the two remaining aircraft, or (b) installing this equipment in only one aircraft instead of two. 25X1A

3. As to the first possibility, it is clear that the ALQ-28 is the most expensive of the four new types of equipment with the K-band receiver as the second most expensive. Omission of either one of these would save us over [REDACTED] 25X1A

4. A decision to re-equip only one instead of two aircraft with advanced ELINT equipment would presumably save us about [REDACTED] I recommend the most careful consideration by you of this possibility. I would point out that present plans call for an average of about five sorties per month in the [REDACTED] program. I would think two aircraft with the advanced ELINT equipment could support this rate of operations especially since the third would be available as a standby with the present equipment still installed. 25X1A

5. I repeat that I wish only a brief note on the above and suggest that you attach thereto some of the earlier documentation if you believe this is needed to give a fuller explanation. If necessary, I could meet briefly within the next

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ten days with the interested parties to settle the matter finally but would still appreciate the brief note herein requested as a basis for the meeting.

6. I would like to emphasize my strong support for the making of all the other planned installations which I gather are related to flight safety and safety from interception.

RICHARD M. BISSELL, JR.
Deputy Director
(Plans)

cc: C/Contracts Branch/DPD
C/Operations/DPD
C/Finance Branch/DPD

DD/P:RMB:djm
1-DD/P Chrono, Subject
NO READING

Per 3. Chrono. DD/P. Proj w/c Ref AP - DPD - 1782/60.